

Chapter 9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	180
Development Monitoring	180
Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions	182
II. WATER	182
Water Supply and Drinking Water	183
Water Distributors	184
Urban Water Management Plans	184
Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions	185
III. WASTEWATER AND SEWER	186
The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	186
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	186
Wastewater Management Issues	186
Wastewater Management Plans	187
Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions	187
IV. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	188
Waste Management Programs	189
Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP)	189
Trash Hauling	190
Sanitation Districts - Waste	190
Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions	190
V. UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	190
Levels of Service	191
Siting Facilities	191
Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions	192
VI. FIRE PROTECTION	193
Personnel, Facilities, and Equipment	193
Funding	193
Programs and Operations	194
Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions	195
VII. LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION	196
Personnel, Operations, and Facilities	196
Funding	198
Future Conditions	198
Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions	199

VIII. EDUCATION	199
County School Impact Assessments	200
Future Conditions	200
Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions	200
IX. LIBRARIES	200
Operations and Programs	200
Library Facilities Mitigation Fees	202
Library Facility Needs	202
Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions	203

LIST OF TABLES

Table 9.1: Remaining Permitted Capacity for In-County Landfills (as of 1/1/07)	187
Table 9.2: Summary of Special Tax Rates for LACFD, as of 2006	194
Table 9.3: L.A. County Public Library Mitigation Fees, as of 2007	202

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 9.1: L.A. County Landfill Map	188
Figure 9.2: L.A. County Fire Department Regions and Divisions	193



PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County General Plan's Public Services and Facilities Element is intended to promote the orderly and efficient planning of public services as an important component of successful land use development and growth. The purpose of this element is to provide a summary of the public services and facilities that serve the County, and to establish a general set of policy goals that will guide public services in conjunction with the County's projected growth.

The Public Services and Facilities Element primarily focuses on services and facilities that are publicly managed and are the most impacted by County growth and development. The General Plan recognizes that as the County continues to develop, the demand for public services and facilities will also need to expand.

This element provides a framework for encouraging land use development and growth that is planned in conjunction with ensuring adequate public services and facilities. The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) will continue to support service providers by supplying project data that is necessary to determine the cumulative impacts of development on public services and facilities.

The Public Services and Facilities Element covers the following topics:

- Water;
- Wastewater (Sewer);
- Solid waste;
- Utilities and telecommunications;
- Fire;
- Police;
- Education; and,
- Libraries.

Development Monitoring

In 1987, the Department of Regional Planning established a Development Monitoring System (DMS), which was a program to ensure that in quickly expanding areas, new development, public service infrastructure, and service capacity were closely monitored for inefficiencies. The DMS program monitored the expansion costs for schools, sewers, fire stations, libraries, and water services in Urban Expansion Areas, and ensured that from a planning perspective, services were expanded to meet future growth projections.

The General Plan no longer identifies Urban Expansion Areas, and many of the expansion costs for services are now covered by specific development fees and by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, the Department of Regional Planning no longer utilizes DMS. The special development fees that have replaced DMS are:

- **School Facilities Fee:** State of California Government Code, Section 53080;
- **Sewer Connection Mitigation Fee:** California Health Safety Code, Section 5474;
- **Fire Protection Facilities Fee:** Revenue & Finance Code, Title 4, Chapter 4.92; and,
- **Library Facilities Mitigation Fee:** Planning & Zoning Code, Title 22, Chapter 22.72.

The remaining service that was tracked by DMS is water, and since 1987, several State laws have been passed to ensure that there is an adequate water supply for new development. These include:

SB 610: Requires water purveyors to provide local governments with a Water Supply Assessment for large projects and criteria including:



Service Extensions Match Development

- Residential developments having more than 500 dwelling units;
- Shopping centers or businesses employing more than 1,000 employees or having more than 500,000 square feet of floor space;
- Commercial office buildings employing more than 1,000 employees or having more than 250,000 square feet of floor space;
- Hotels or motels having more than 500 rooms;
- Industrial, manufacturing, processing plants, or industrial parks housing more than 1,000 persons, is greater than 40 acres or having 650,000 square feet of floor space; and,
- Any project that increases a public water system that currently has less than 5,000 connections by 10%.

SB 221: Requires verification of sufficient water supply as a condition of approval for tentative maps for subdivisions with more than 500 dwelling units or proposed residential developments that increase a public water system that currently has less than 5,000 connections, by 10%.

Urban Water Management Planning Act (1983): Requires urban water suppliers that provide water to 3,000 or more customers or provide 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to adopt and implement Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP) to ensure there is sufficient water to meet the needs of customers during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.

The Department of Regional Planning will continue to support service planning by making development data available to public service providers. The Public Services and Facilities Element provides an overview of the County's service providers and offers policy guidance for the continued coordination of development activities with service providers to ensure appropriate capacity of our service infrastructure. In addition, the County recognizes that to support sustainable public service infrastructure, development in isolated and hazardous areas must be limited or restricted.



Water Reliability Limits Development

Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

The general goals and policies that apply to Public Services and Facilities are:

Goal PS-1

A reliable and equitable network of public services and facilities throughout the County.

- **Policy PS 1.1:** Encourage the equitable distribution of public facilities throughout the County.
- **Policy PS 1.2:** Ensure the equitable distribution of community social services, such as child care, workforce training, and elder care.
- **Policy PS 1.3:** Promote phased development whereby beneficial public facilities such as schools, parks, fire protection, and law enforcement are developed in conjunction with land use proposals.
- **Policy PS 1.4:** Development should not occur in areas without adequate public services and facilities.
- **Policy PS 1.5:** Ensure impacts to County services are mitigated through impact fees or other programs.
- **Policy PS 1.6:** Support innovative public facility expansion efforts, such as substations or satellite offices in commercial developments.

Implementation Action PS 1.1

Study and evaluate the creation of a standardized mitigation fee to be placed on all development for the provision of all public services and facilities including parks, libraries, schools, sewers, water, stormwater management, transportation and police and fire protection.

Implementation Action PS 1.2

Implement a services demand database that incorporates subdivision activity data and other case data that can be used for services planning.

“We are rapidly building a new functional unit, the metropolitan region, but we have yet to grasp that this new unit, too, should have its corresponding image

–Kevin Lynch

II. WATER

The County utilizes a complex water management system to provide a continuous supply of clean water for everyday uses, and there are numerous water providers, water control boards, and other agencies that ensure the effective implementation of this system. This section of the Public Services and Facilities Element focuses on the provision, management, and use of water in the County, and provides policy direction for the continued effective maintenance of our water supply system.

The County is very susceptible to any disruption in its water supply. For instance, a 2007 California court ruling to protect Delta Smelt, an endangered species in the Sacramento River Delta, reduced the water conveyed in the California State Water Project by 33 percent. This one event could have a potentially significant impact on the building and development activities in Los Angeles County. The need to conserve water, increase land use efficiencies, and promote the recycling of water is an ever-increasing need in the County. The County must be a leader in the way we conserve, use, and find new sources of water, as it will continue to be a critical planning issue in the future.

This section specifically addresses the County’s:

- Water supply and drinking water;
- Local and imported water supplies;
- Water distributors; and,
- Urban Water Management Plans.

Background

To manage existing and future water supplies, the County coordinates with state agencies and local water districts to operate a complex system that conserves, manages, and efficiently utilizes existing water resources for the County. In semi-arid Los Angeles County, drought, pollution, population growth, and land use affect the quantity and quality of

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local and regional water supplies. The overall demand for water is projected to increase dramatically between 2000 and 2030, and the cost, quality, and availability of water will affect future development patterns. The County's water supply is further threatened by ground and surface water pollution, as well as a reduction in the open space necessary for surface water percolation and groundwater recharge. In short, the County recognizes that the effective maintenance and implementation of our water management system is an increasingly important factor in determining the success of our future development.



Pyramid Lake Reservoir

Water Supply and Drinking Water

Los Angeles County is highly susceptible to the ebbs and flows of water availability. The region's climate is characterized by extended periods of dry weather, and the County's annual average rainfall is 15.0 inches. However, rainfall in the County varies significantly based on topography. For example, the San Gabriel Mountains receives an annual average rainfall of 27.5 inches, whereas the Antelope Valley, an arid desert region, receives just 7.8 inches annually.



California Aqueduct

The County is served by a mix of local and imported water supplies, delivered through a complex system of aqueducts, reservoirs, and groundwater basins. The County is extremely dependent on outside sources for its water supply. Approximately 33 percent of the County's water supply comes from local sources, while the remaining water supply is imported from outside the County. The County must continue to develop a diverse range of water resources to reduce the risk of an overall water shortage, especially since a local water supply is more sustainable and energy efficient than imported water. The following discussion outlines the primary local and imported sources of the County's water supply.

Local Water Sources

Local water sources include surface water from mountain runoff, groundwater, and recycled water. While local water supplies are the least costly, surface water and groundwater supplies fluctuate in response to variations in annual rainfall, incidents of contamination, and effectiveness of conservation measures. Recycled water provides a reliable, consistently high quality supply of water, but also requires that additional infrastructure, statutes, and regulations governing the use of recycled water be modified before recycled water reaches its full supply potential.

Desalination, or removing salt from ocean water, is a credible, potential water resource. There are several water agencies throughout Southern California preparing to add

desalinated water to their list of water supplies. The Metropolitan Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency plan to purchase desalinated water, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is planning to build a desalination plant in Playa del Rey to supplement local water supplies in the County.

Imported Water Sources

Water is imported into the County from three sources: the Colorado River, the Bay-Delta in northern California via the State Water Project, and the Owens Valley via the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The Los Angeles Aqueduct primarily serves the residents and businesses of the City of Los Angeles.

Imported water supplies are politically controversial, especially as drought conditions have reduced major sources of water and States fight over dwindling imported water supplies, such as from the Colorado River. Depending on environmental needs, conservation measures, precipitation levels, population growth, and political maneuverings, imported water sources may not be adequate in the future, and water agencies must work to find additional sources to offset projected demand.

Water Distributors

Water services in the County are provided by a complex network of water districts, water wholesalers, and private companies that go about the business of developing and improving water service for their customers. Most of the imported water utilized in the unincorporated County is provided by the Metropolitan Water District, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, and the Palmdale Water District. Further information on these water distributors is available on their websites which are listed in the Technical Appendix to the General Plan.

Urban Water Management Plans

In accordance with the State of California Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983, every urban water supplier above a minimum size must prepare and adopt an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). These plans contain a description and evaluation of water supplies, reclamation programs, and conservation activities. Based upon land use plans provided by local governments, the UWMP calculates the projected water demand for the district and compares this demand against current and anticipated water

supplies. These plans, which are updated every five (5) years, are provided to local governments to assist them in making informed decisions about new development proposals and whether there will be sufficient water supplies to serve completed projects.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is preparing the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and is compiling all Urban Water Management Plans within the SCAG region. Local and County urban water management plans can be found on SCAG's website at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/rcp/uwmp.htm>.



Streams and Wetlands Percolate Water into Aquifers

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Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-2

A protected supply of County water resources.

- **Policy PS 2.1:** Support preservation, restoration and strategic acquisition of open space to preserve natural streams, drainage channels, wetlands, and rivers, which are necessary for the healthy function of watersheds.
- **Policy PS 2.2:** Protect natural groundwater recharge areas and artificial spreading grounds.
- **Policy PS 2.3:** Effectively manage watersheds to balance growth and development with resource conservation and flood hazard mitigation.
- **Policy PS 2.4:** Support the preparation and implementation of watershed and river master plans.
- **Policy PS 2.5:** Promote the development and use of new and improved water and flood management technologies and infrastructure such as the utilization of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.
- **Policy PS 2.6:** Maximize the conservation of water throughout the County.
- **Policy PS 2.7:** Expand the existing supply of water through the development of new supplies such as desalination.

Implementation Action PS 2.1

Review and create a water conservation ordinance with appropriate enforcement procedures. Since Los Angeles County imports most of its water supply, this finite supply should be carefully distributed, used, and recycled in order to maximize efficiency and increase reliability.

Goal PS-3

A clean supply of water to satisfy current and future demand.

- **Policy PS 3.1:** Support measures to improve the quality of imported and local water, groundwater supplies, stormwater runoff and desalinized water.
- **Policy PS 3.2:** Require all development to provide a guaranteed supply of water.
- **Policy PS 3.3:** Eliminate point and non-point source water pollution.
- **Policy PS 3.4:** Restrict the use of septic systems adjacent to aqueducts to eliminate the possibility of wastewater intrusion into the water supply.
- **Policy PS 3.5:** Encourage and support the increased production, distribution and use of recycled water to provide for groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barrier injection, irrigation, industrial processes, and other non-potable beneficial uses.
- **Policy PS 3.6:** Promote development of multi-use facilities for stormwater quality improvement, groundwater recharge, flood management and other compatible uses.

Implementation Action PS 3.1

Develop a “green streets” infrastructure program that retrofits stormwater infrastructure one project at a time to maximize groundwater recharge and reduce the burden on the County’s existing, centralized stormwater management system. A green streets approach to stormwater management would capture nearly all stormwater runoff to percolate into the groundwater basin, producing future water supply and quality, recreational, and environmental benefits.

Implementation Action PS 3.2

Create a water monitoring system to match existing water demand, existing and future conservation efforts, and projected demand with projected water supplies to ensure water availability for all development projects. Require this balance sheet to stay solvent, and create a method to reject all development that does not have a guaranteed supply of water. for at least 20 years

Implementation Action PS 3.3

Create the position of a County water liaison and lobbyist to the State capital in Sacramento.

III. WASTEWATER AND SEWER

The Wastewater and Sewer section addresses the management of wastewater effluent and raw sewage in Los Angeles County. Like most other public services in the County, wastewater management involves a complex mix of service providers to cover its large population and vast geographic area. The primary providers of wastewater management services for the unincorporated areas of the County include the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), and individual cities' community-wide septic or wastewater systems.

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County are in charge of the sewer and wastewater management activities in most of the County. They are a confederation of 24 independent districts that serve the wastewater and solid waste management needs of approximately 5.2 million people. The Sanitation Districts' area covers 800 square miles, including 78 incorporated cities and the unincorporated County. As of 2005, the Sanitation Districts owned, operated, and maintained 1,340 miles of sewers that conveyed 510 million gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater, 200 million gpd of which is recycled, to eleven (11) wastewater treatment plants. The service areas for the County's sewer systems include the Joint Outfall System, the Santa Clarita Valley,



Joint Water Pollution Control Plant
Source: Pictometry International Corp



Typical Los Angeles County Storm Channel

and the Antelope Valley. Further information about the County Sanitation Districts can be found on their website at www.lacsd.org.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works maintains 5,200 miles of main line sewers, 255 pumping stations and four (4) sewage treatment plants. The Department of Public Works Environmental Programs Division also permits and inspects industrial waste discharge into local sewers. The Los Angeles County Code, Title 20, requires that every business that disposes industrial wastewater obtain a permit. These permits, and the assurance that proper water treatment procedures are conducted prior to discharge, are regulated by the Environmental Programs Division.

Wastewater Management Issues

The treatment of stormwater runoff in wastewater management systems is a serious concern in the County, particularly because stormwater runoff contains pollutants including heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, animal droppings, trash, food waste, fuels, oils, solvents, lubricants, and grease. The collection of these pollutants into stormwater channels, which has traditionally been discharged directly into the Pacific Ocean, has become a serious water quality issue.

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As the County's reliance on imported water increases, more and more stormwater runoff is being diverted into the sewer system for treatment and reuse as recycled water. There is also a renewed focus for treating stormwater runoff and other wastewater on-site before it is conveyed to the sewage system. Instead of burdening the existing sewage system, on-site treatment and retention basins clean up wastewater before it enters the water system, and if designed and located correctly, can increase natural groundwater recharge. This concept of treating stormwater runoff on-site is known as Low Impact Development (LID), which is a major policy consideration in this General Plan.

Wastewater Management Plans

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) deal mostly with water supply and quality. However, the involvement of wastewater in these plans has grown with the advent of the recycled water concept. Recycled water, which is the effluent of treated wastewater, is increasingly utilized for secondary uses, such as in industrial cooling and landscaping. In parts of the arid Mojave Desert, recycled water is also being injected into aquifers as a water banking measure.

The Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP), developed by the Department of Public Works and last updated in 2002, provides guidance to builders, land developers, engineers, and planners in the selection of post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). Further information on the SUSMP is available at the Department of Public Works website at http://ladpw.org/wmd/npdes/SUSMP_MANUAL.pdf.

Table 9.1: Remaining Permitted Capacity for In-County Landfills (as of 1/1/07)

Landfill	2005 Disposal Rate (tons/day)	Remaining Capacity (Millions Tons)	Remaining Life (Years)
Puente Hills	12,079	26.6	7
Chiquita Canyon	4,853	11.01	8
Sunshine Canyon (County)	2,693	7.53	9*
Sunshine Canyon** (City)	4,118	4.26	4*
Calabasas	1,492	7.89	17
Lancaster***	1,221	13.48	6
Scholl Canyon	1,431	6.4	14
Antelope Valley	997	9.19	30
Total	28,884	186.36	

Source: Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan, Annual Report Dated April 2008

Note:

Tons/Day = 6-day week

Imported waste to various types of disposal facilities - 854 tpd

Exported waste to landfills located outside of Los Angeles County – 5,713 tpd. Remaining capacity is based on an annual landfill operator survey.

*On February 6, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) establishing a 30-year life. Provided certain conditions are met, the total available capacity for the combined City/County landfill is 73.4 million tons.

**Lancaster Landfill current CUP requires it to close by August 2012.

Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-4

An updated and reliable network of wastewater systems in the County.

- **Policy PS 4.1:** Encourage the planning and continued development of countywide wastewater systems.
- **Policy PS 4.2:** Promote innovative programs and techniques in wastewater management.
- **Policy PS 4.43:** Avoid the use of private sewage disposal systems in landslide, hillside and other hazard areas.

Implementation Action PS 4.1

Develop a policy document on package sewage (wastewater) treatment plants that provides policy direction, siting, and design guidelines.

Implementation Action PS 4.2

Initiate septic tank maintenance educational programs in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.

IV. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Los Angeles County has the largest and most complex waste management system in the country. In 2007, the County produced on average 76,800 tons of trash per day. As available space for landfills is becoming scarce and more distant, and as local landfills reach their holding capacity, cities and counties have been mandated to more effectively manage waste and reduce their solid waste volume. This section describes the existing waste management programs in the County, and sets forth goals and policies for the future management of solid waste.

Background

The defining elements of waste management in the County continue to be the growing amounts of waste being generated and disposed, a shortage of solid waste processing facilities, and strong public opposition for new solid waste management facilities. There are eight (8) major solid waste

landfills, four (4) small solid waste landfills, and two (2) waste-to-energy facilities that serve the County, as shown in **Figure 9.1**.

Table 9.1 lists the remaining permitted capacity for landfills in the County as of January 1, 2007. These numbers reflect the average amount of waste that landfills take in per day, and how many years it will take to reach full capacity at current disposal rates. In 2013, the Puente Hills Landfill, the largest landfill in the County, will close. At that time, a significant percentage of the County's solid waste will have to be exported to facilities out of the County, which will result in increased costs and environmental impacts. This concern is exacerbated by the fact that waste generation in the County is projected to increase to approximately 99,500 tons per day (tpd) within the next 15 years.

Based on 2006 waste disposal figures, without major expansions to existing landfills, the County's current disposal system has approximately ten (10) years of remaining capacity left. The County recognizes the importance of effective planning and management of solid waste by promoting countywide waste diversion programs.

In 2006 the County exported over 5,700 tpd to landfills in neighboring counties. In order to meet future disposal needs, the County will continue to export more waste to these landfills. Solid waste enterprises within the County are proponents of enhancing and developing Material Recovery Facilities/Transfer Stations to provide additional infrastructure to help meet our future disposal needs. The County Sanitation Districts completed acquisition of the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County, and has signed a purchase agreement for acquisition of the Eagle Mountain Landfill, subject to resolution of pending litigation. Mesquite Landfill has a permitted daily capacity of 20,000 tpd and a 100-year lifespan. The County Sanitation Districts are in the process of planning, designing, and developing a waste-by-rail system that could transport up to 8,000 tpd to the Mesquite Landfill.

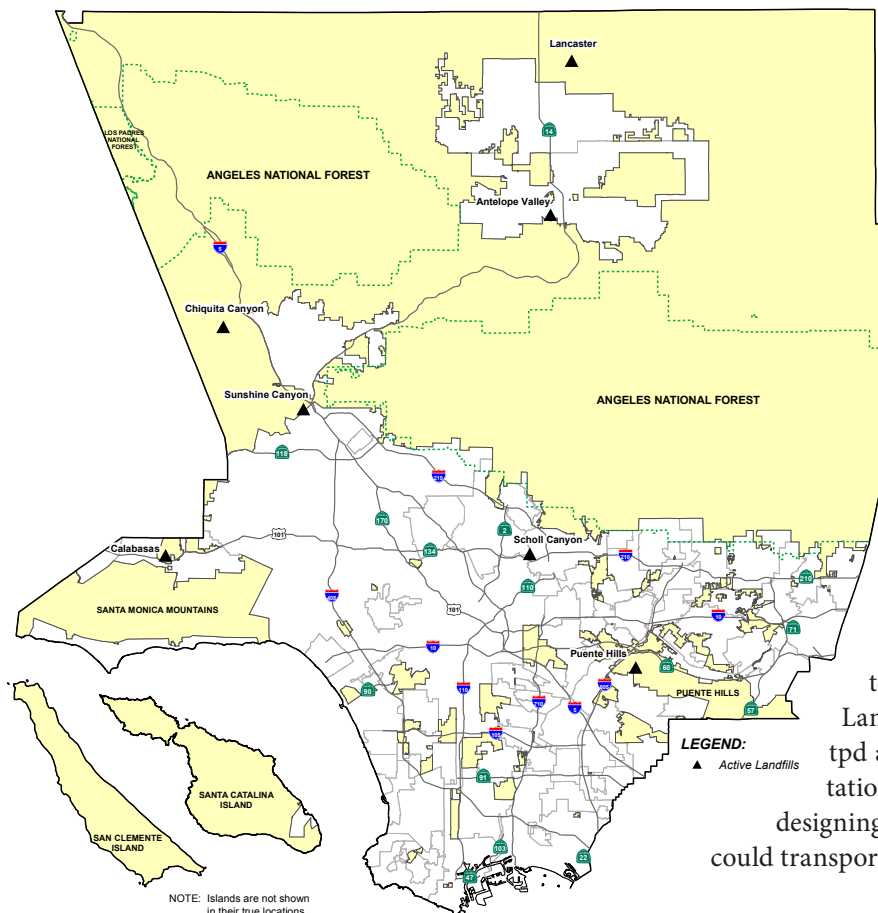


Figure 9.1: L.A. County Landfill Map

The 2006 Annual Report for the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) describes the County's current strategy for maintaining adequate disposal capacity through 2021. Provided certain assumptions are met, the County would meet its disposal capacity needs by successfully permitting and developing all in-county landfill expansions, more extensively utilizing out-of-county disposal capacity, developing necessary infrastructure to facilitate exportation of waste to out-of-County landfills, and developing facilities utilizing conversion technologies to the extent technically and economically feasible. The development of out-of-County disposal capacity, markets for recovered materials, and conversion technologies are anticipated to meet the expanding needs for the County.

Waste Management Programs

The County has a number of countywide diversion, source reduction, and household hazardous waste programs. In 2005, the countywide diversion rate, or the rate of waste that has been diverted from landfills through recycling and

Conversion Technologies

As part of the strategy to reduce dependence on landfills, the County is evaluating and encouraging the development of conversion technologies in the region in order to transform residual solid waste from a liability to a resource. The Southern California Conversion Technology Demonstration project spearheaded by the County will demonstrate the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility of these technologies. Conversion technologies refer to a wide variety of biological, chemical, and thermal (excluding incineration) processes capable of converting residual post-recycled municipal solid waste and other organic feedstocks into useful products, alternative fuels, and clean and renewable energy. Additionally, utilizing conversion technologies locally could effectively enhance recycling, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, extend the life of existing landfills, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

other programs, was 49%, about the same as the statewide rate (48%). In that year, the County disposed approximately 12 million tons of waste.

A partial list of County waste management programs includes the following: Countywide Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Management Program; County Smart Gardening Management Program; Smart Business Recycling Program, Illegal Dumping Program, Waste Tire Recycling Program, and the County Residential Recycling Program (Ordinance 90-0167). More information on these and other waste management programs can be

found in the Public Works Environmental Programs Division webpage at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/>.

Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP)

Los Angeles County adopted an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) in 1997. The IWMP was prepared in response to the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (known as AB 939), and its associated regulations, which were developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). As required by law, the IWMP establishes countywide goals for waste management, describes the historical countywide system of waste



Landfill Dozer

management infrastructure, describes the current system of waste management in the County, and summarizes all waste management programs. The latest IWMP for Los Angeles County was adopted in July 1997 and is updated annually through Annual Reports. The report can be found at the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Information Management System website, located at www.SolidWasteDRS.org.

Trash Hauling

In the unincorporated areas of the County, solid waste collection services are provided through an open-market system in which each resident directly arranges for services with the hauler. This system has been unable to meet demands created by changes in federal and state laws, public attitudes toward protecting the environment, and consumers' demands for better services and protection against excessive rate increases. The Department of Public Works began implementing the franchise system for the County for solid waste collection. Existing franchise areas include La Crescenta, Bassett/Valinda/South San Jose Hills, South San Gabriel, West Whittier, Citrus, and Rowland Heights. These franchise areas have seen improved customer service, increased accountability, cleaner neighborhoods, lower regulated rates charged by waste haulers, and increased diversion rates in these areas.

Sanitation Districts - Waste

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County are a confederation of 24 independent districts that serve the wastewater and solid waste management needs of approximately 5.2 million people in the County. The Sanitation Districts' area covers 800 square miles, including 78 incorporated cities and the unincorporated County. As of 2005, the Sanitation Districts operated three (3) active sanitary landfills that handled 20,000 tpd, 3,500 tpd of which is recycled. The County operates four (4) landfill gas-to-energy facilities that generate a total of 68 megawatts of energy per year, two (2) recycling centers, three (3) materials recovery/transfer facilities, and partners with local jurisdictions in the operation of two (2) refuse-to-energy facilities. The increased use of environmentally negligible refuse to energy facilities and a massive expansion of the County's recycling programs and capacity will add to the efficiency, reliability, and longevity of the overall waste management system. Further information about the County Sanitation Districts is available at www.lacsd.org.

Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-5

Minimal waste and pollution in the County.

- **Policy PS 5.1:** Maintain an efficient, safe and responsive waste management system that facilitates waste reduction while protecting the health and safety of the public.
- **Policy PS 5.2:** Reduce dependence on landfills by encouraging solid waste management facilities that utilize conversion technologies and waste to energy facilities.
- **Policy PS 5.3:** Ensure the safe use of former landfill sites.
- **Policy PS 5.4:** Reduce the County's waste stream to negligible levels.
- **Policy PS 5.5:** Encourage the use and procurement of recyclable and biodegradable materials throughout the County.
- **Policy PS 5.6:** Encourage recycling of construction and demolition debris generated by public and private projects.
- **Policy PS 5.7:** Ensure adequate and regular waste and recycling collection services.

Implementation Action PS 5.1

Participate in a collaborative inter-agency effort to create a Zero Waste Program that will guide County Departments toward a zero waste, 100 percent recyclable environment.

Implementation Action PS 5.2

Create household, commercial, and industrial waste reduction programs that identify incentives and best practices for waste reducing and recycling activities.

V. UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County is layered with utility rights-of-way, and properties that contain tower structures, substations, generating plants, pipelines, storage fields, valve stations, wells, radio and television studios, and other equipment facilities that comprise the County's utility infrastructure, information, and communication networks. Public agencies

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have little responsibility in providing electric, natural gas, or telecommunication services to unincorporated areas of the County. However, the County recognizes the need to define and ensure adequate levels of service in these areas as the County continues to grow.

Levels of Service

Telecommunication services, such as phone and cable service, are provided by several private companies throughout the County. In the fast-changing telecommunications sector, private service providers have managed to provide County residents with adequate levels to meet the County's expanding population and economic sectors.

One service area in the County that is facing considerable strain is electricity and power. As a result of continuing high growth in electricity usage, and the prolonged hot weather conditions during the spring of 2000, the entire State of California experienced "brown outs", or periodic losses of power and forced reductions in electricity delivery. Subsequent years of warm weather and high electricity usage have kept an emphasis on the need to upgrade the County's power grid and service capabilities, and more importantly, to educate the public on the need to conserve energy. Upgrades and enhancements of local services, and strong energy conservation programs will add to the reliability and efficiency of the overall utility network, and will contribute to the long-term quality of life for County residents and businesses.

Similarly, the region's substantial population growth is outpacing the development of new natural gas supplies, much of which is imported from out-of-state. In addition to heating and cooking, natural gas currently provides 73 percent to 90 percent of the energy used to generate electricity, especially in peak times. As the population continues to grow, renewed focus must be placed on the development of new natural gas supplies including local production and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), upgrading and enhancing the region's natural gas infrastructure system to improve reliability and efficiency, strong energy conservation programs, and renewable alternatives.

A major contributor to the long-term energy independence of the County will be the increased production of energy from renewable sources. Within Los Angeles County, the primary sources of renewable energy are wind and solar power. In particular, the General Plan promotes the use and



Telecommunications Tower

permit streamlining of on-site energy production. On-site energy production will further relieve mounting pressure on the County's electricity grid. The production of energy from renewable sources on-site can also be a means to ensure the ongoing operations of primary health, safety, and civic infrastructure during times of disruption.

Siting Facilities

Siting facilities to ensure adequate levels of utility service is increasingly difficult. Many parts of the County are built-out, leaving little room for facility expansion. At the same time, public opposition to the expansion or placement of utility infrastructure within their community is not uncommon. Energy and communication infrastructure facilities and systems can also be a matter of local, regional, or national security. Close consultation with local and federal law enforcement agencies is required to protect utility infrastructure against security risks.

Within the unincorporated areas, the County has the authority to assure land use compatibility in the process of siting many infrastructure facilities necessary for the delivery of energy and information resources. It may not preclude the reasonable siting of these facilities, but under the auspices of Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) routinely processes discretionary review cases permitting the development of cellular telephone sites or other utility-related facilities. These uses are permitted when they are consistent with General Plan policies and compatible with the neighborhoods where they are sited.

The siting of natural gas facilities can face unique challenges. The limited number of existing natural gas storage facilities located within the County plays a critical role in supplying natural gas and assisting in the generation of electricity throughout Southern California. Stored gas is withdrawn during peak periods and transmitted to different regions as needed. The siting of new storage facilities is especially difficult because, in addition to the same land constraints and potential for public opposition encountered by above-ground utility facilities and pipelines, natural gas storage facilities must be located in areas with specific geologic conditions to ensure efficiency and reliability.

The Department of Public Works' Strategic Plan outlines service delivery goals for sanitary sewer, water supply, flood control, garbage disposal, and traffic lighting within the County. Further information on the Department's Strategic Plan is available on their website at <http://ladpw.org/>. The County promotes the careful expansion of utility and other public services in conjunction with planned growth, as well as the compatible siting of facilities and infrastructure, in the goals and policies of the General Plan.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-6

A reliable and safe public utilities and telecommunications network throughout the County.

- **Policy PS 6.1:** Ensure efficient and cost effective utilities that serve existing and future needs.
- **Policy PS 6.2:** Improve telecommunications infrastructure and expand access to community technology networks.
- **Policy PS 6.3:** Protect and enhance public utility facilities as necessary to maintain all essential public service systems in the County.
- **Policy PS 6.4:** Increase the use of renewable energy sources in utility and telecommunications networks.

Implementation Action PS 6.1

Streamline the permitting process for utility and telecommunications that utilize renewable energy sources.



Nurseries are Encouraged Under Utility Corridors

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VI. FIRE PROTECTION

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) provides fire, safety, and emergency medical services to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Additionally, there are many incorporated cities within the County that also utilize LACFD services. There are three (3) major geographic regions in the LACFD service area, which are divided into nine (9) divisions and 21 battalions, as seen in Figure 9.2.

Personnel, Facilities, and Equipment

The LACFD currently employs over 4,800 personnel, ranging from firefighters and paramedics to lifeguards and pilots. The LACFD operates 167 fire stations, several fire prevention offices and suppression camps, and 181 lifeguard towers/headquarters facilities. The LACFD utilizes a wide array of firefighting and safety equipment that includes many specialized units that are staffed as needed, as well as the following units that are staffed daily:

- 10 helicopters;
- 156 engine companies;
- 32 truck companies;
- 4 hazardous material squads;
- 12 patrol fire trucks;
- 12 rescue/fire boats;
- 66 paramedic squads;
- 2 Urban Search and Rescue units; and,
- 4 emergency support teams.

Funding

The LACFD is a special district and receives most of its revenue in the unincorporated area from a portion of the ad valorem property tax paid by the owners of all taxable properties. This revenue source varies from one tax rate area to another and is specifically earmarked to LACFD.

The LACFD's Special Tax is a supplemental revenue source that pays for essential fire suppression and emergency medical services. Approved by voters in 1997, the Special Tax rates are adjusted each year by 2% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less. However, on August 21, 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution

fixing the 2007-08 tax levy at the same level as the 2006-07 levy. Table 9.2 provides a summary of the special tax rate that goes toward LACFD services.

In addition, in 1990, the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted a County of Los Angeles Developer Fee Program to fund the acquisition, construction, improvement, and equipping of fire station facilities in the high-growth, urban-expansion areas of the County. In 2006, due to the increasing costs related to fire protection and the construction of fire protection facilities, the LACFD proposed an increase in the Developer Fee Program in order to meet the growing demand for fire protection services. Effective February 1, 2008, the Board of Supervisors set the following amounts for the Developer Fee Program:

- \$.9223 per sq. ft for Malibu/Santa Monica Mountains;
- \$.9341 per sq. ft. for Santa Clarita Valley; and,
- \$.8546 per sq. ft. for the Antelope Valley.

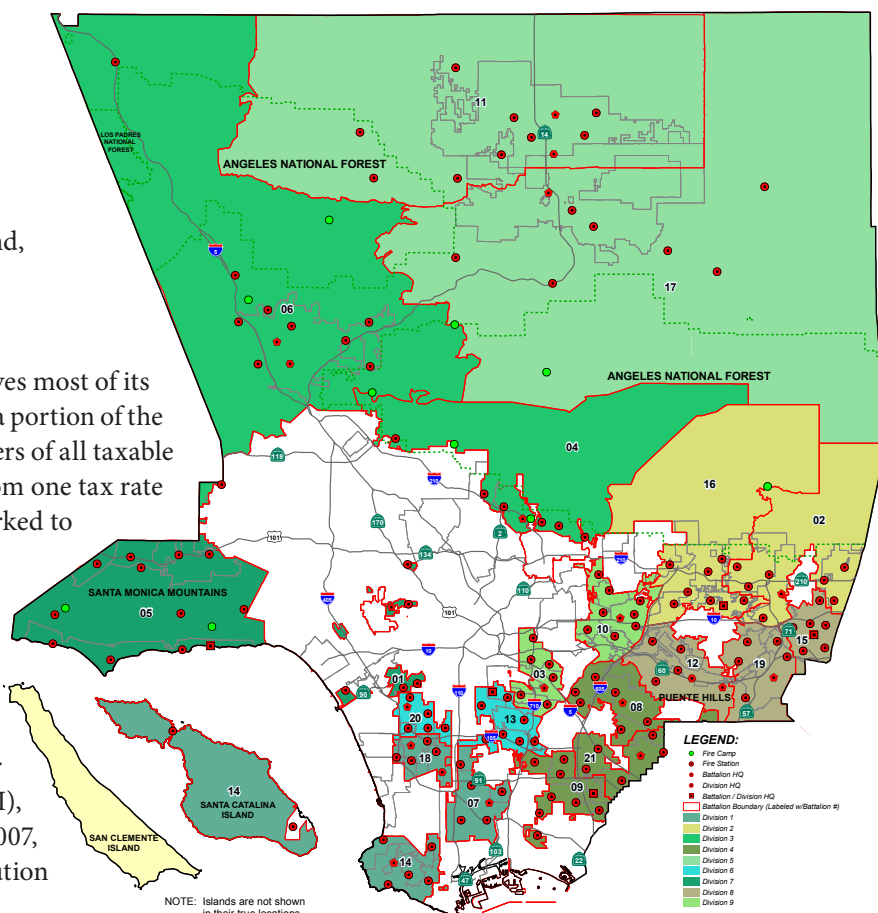


Figure 9.2: L.A. County Fire Department Regions and Divisions

Table 9.2: Summary of Special Tax Rates for LACFD, as of 2006

Land Use	Special Tax Rates
Single Family Residential	\$49.93
Mobile Home in Park	\$24.96
Multiple Family Residential 2 or more units less than 4 stories	\$63.07 + \$.0064 per sq. ft. over 1,555 sq. ft.
Non-Residential, Commercial/Industrial less than 4 stories	\$60.43 + \$.0407 per sq. ft. over 1,555 sq. ft.*
High Rise, 4 stories or more	\$73.58 + \$.0496 per sq. ft. over 1,555 sq. ft.*
Special Use, such as refineries and major chemical handlers	\$91.96 + \$.0620 per sq. ft. over 1,555 sq. ft.*
Vacant Land — 2 acres or less	\$12.48
Vacant Land — more than 2 acres and less than or equal to 10 acres	\$16.48
Vacant Land — more than 10 acres and less than or equal to 50 acres	\$32.94
Vacant land — more than 50 acres	\$49.93

Source: Los Angeles County Fire Department

* Capped at 100,000 Sq. Ft. Per Parcel

Programs and Operations

The LACFD operates a number of emergency and non-emergency operations and programs. The major operations are summarized below:

Emergency Operations: Provide basic emergency response supports related to fires, water rescues, hazardous materials, and other emergency-related situations. For the year 2007, the LACFD responded to 9,951 fires and 199,224 emergency medical calls.

Fire Prevention Division: Focuses on educating the community about the benefits of proper safety practices and identifying and eliminating all types of hazardous conditions, which pose a threat to life, the environment, and property. In 2007, the Fire Prevention Division had a total of 188 civilian and sworn personnel.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Responsible for paramedic training, EMT-1 certification, equipment, quality improvement, EMS data management, and legal aspects for all basic and advanced emergency medical services. The EMS section

is managed by a highly trained team of emergency medical professionals, including a battalion chief, an EMS education program director, a quality improvement program director, four paramedic coordinators, and thirteen (13) senior nurse instructors supported by an administrative team.

Air and Wildland: Provides emergency and non-emergency response, fire camps, and heavy equipment operations. For the year 2007, air operations responded to 860 fires and performed close to 2,000 emergency medical incidents.

Forestry Division: Responsible for the review of environmental documents related to the development and protection of oak tree resources, the development of vegetation management plans and proposals, the coordination of wildland fire planning, the enforcement of the brush clearance program, the review of fuel modification plans, erosion control, and watershed management. The Forestry Division is comprised of three (3) sections: Operations, Natural Resources, and Brush Clearance. In 2007, the Division was staffed with 45 professionals. Five (5) Forestry units are located in Malibu, Saugus, Lake Hughes, San Dimas, and at Henninger Flats in the foothills above Altadena. At each unit, tree seedlings are provided to the public and advice is shared with local homeowners. In addition, Forestry personnel staff Camp Paige (Camp 17), located in La Verne, where foresters train and work with wards-of-the-court on forestry projects.



Los Angeles County Firefighters



Fire Helicopter

Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD): Also called the Los Angeles County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). HHMD consolidates, coordinates, and administers permits, inspection activities, and enforcement activities throughout the County. There are six (6) unified programs that HHMD implements with the help of Participating Agencies, which are comprised of a representation from municipal fire departments:

- Hazardous Waste;
- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory;
- California Accidental Release Prevention;
- Hazardous Materials Management Plan and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statement;
- Underground Storage Tank; and,
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tank.

LACFD plans their services in line with the County's population and economic growth projections, and continued growth in the County will significantly affect LACFD operations. Capital costs represent a small portion of the fire Department's budget, and fire protection services are a labor-intensive, 24 hour-a-day, seven (7) days-a-week endeavor. As such, fire stations incur high operating costs and require a critical mass of development to provide adequate ongoing revenues. The County recognizes that to support sustainable public service infrastructure, development in isolated and hazardous areas should not be permitted.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-7

A County with reliable and satisfactory fire protection services and facilities.

- **Policy PS 7.1:** Promote phased development, whereby land use proposals are developed in conjunction with approved fire protection facilities or capabilities.
- **Policy PS 7.2:** Support the expansion of fire protection facilities where needed.
- **Policy PS 7.3:** Encourage ongoing evaluation of fire protection funding sources.
- **Policy PS 7.4:** All projects must comply with Los Angeles County Fire Department requirements, including access, water mains, fire flows, and hydrants.
- **Policy PS 7.5:** Fire fuel modification plans will consider the habitat and watershed management aspect of each site, while addressing public safety.

Implementation Action PS 7.1

Work with the LACFD to upgrade the Building, Fire, Subdivision, and Zoning Codes to require onsite fire preventative measures in development designs.



Fire Station 89, Agoura Hills



Hazardous Materials Squad Truck

VII. LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) ranks among other sheriff law enforcement agencies as the largest and most diverse in the world. LASD provides law enforcement services to 40 contract cities, 90 unincorporated communities, nine (9) community colleges, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and 48 Superior Courts. The Sheriff provides law enforcement services to the 1 million people residing within the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as to more than four (4) million residents living within cities who contract with the LASD to provide law enforcement services. Additionally, the LASD is responsible for the housing, feeding, medical treatment, and security of an approximate daily inmate population of 20,000.

Personnel, Operations, and Facilities

The LASD is budgeted for 17,960 staff positions, of which 9,888 are sworn peace officers and 8,072 are professional staff people. The LASD is comprised of 11 divisions, each headed by a Division Chief. There are three (3) patrol divisions (Field Operation

Regions 1, II, and III), Detective Division, Custody Operations Division, Correctional Services Division, Court Services Division, Office of Homeland Security, Technical Services Division, Administrative Services Division, and the Leadership and Training Division.

The Field Operation Regions are centered on 25 patrol stations that are dispersed throughout the County. The location and detailed information of each station may be found on the LASD website at http://www.lasd.org/stations/station_index.html. Custody Operations and Correctional Services Divisions operate the County's seven (7) jail facilities and the Inmate Reception Center. Detective units, court

facilities, and other administrative offices are located throughout the County.

Another priority for the LASD has been the repair or replacement of outdated facilities. In 2006, the Special Enforcement Bureau moved into a newly refurbished Biscailuz Regional Training Center in the City Terrace community and two (2) new stations were built in the Cities of Palmdale and San



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy

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Sheriff's Station, Altadena

Dimas. In 2007, the LASD expanded and refurbished the Lakewood Sheriff's Station and opened a state-of-the-art Los Angeles Regional Crime and Forensics Laboratory.

The building vacated by the Special Enforcement Bureau is now the newly renovated home of the Community Oriented Policing Bureau Headquarters and the East Los Angeles Gang Enforcement Team. Additional space is being renovated in the Antelope Valley Area to house the Antelope Valley Crime Fighting Initiative (AVCFI). This newly renovated space will co-locate team members from many specialized units, such as gang enforcement officers, investigators, and members of community-based anti-crime organizations within a contiguous space. This new facility will provide an atmosphere wherein ideas and information may be shared freely between the diverse groups to whom the goal of reducing crime in the Antelope Valley is paramount.

Construction on the new Athens Sheriff's Station, located in southwest Los Angeles County, began in November of 2007. Upon completion in late 2009, Athens Station will replace most of the patrol functions currently carried out by Lennox Sheriff's Station servicing the unincorporated County areas of Lennox, Gardena, Athens, Los Angeles, El Camino Village, Del Aire, Wiseburn, and the contract city of Lawndale.

LASD crime statistics depict a downward trend in criminal activity for 2006. However, the number of arrests made within the County increased one (1) percent. The necessity

for police services is not spurred by crime statistics alone. LASD personnel responded to 1,166,616 calls for service in 2006. In addition to proactive enforcement of criminal laws, the LASD also provides investigative, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, and community education functions. To effectively and efficiently fulfill all of these functions, the LASD should be staffed at a level of one (1) deputy sheriff per each 1,000 population. As a result, recruitment and training remain one of the LASD's top priorities. A milestone was achieved on December 1, 2006, when LASD attained an all-time high for the recruitment of sworn personnel. Over 1,000 new deputy sheriff trainees were hired within a one-year period.

Gang Violence

Although the interdiction of gang violence is the responsibility of the entire Sheriff's Department, one bureau is specifically dedicated to this mission. Operation Safe Streets Bureau's (OSS) main purpose is to reduce gang violence within the Sheriff's Department's jurisdiction.

OSS currently has 68 Gang Detail Deputies and 92 Gang Investigator Deputies who deploy from 12 sheriff's stations throughout the county. The stations are, Lancaster, Palmdale, East Los Angeles, Temple, Pico Rivera, Industry, Lakewood, Norwalk, Carson, Century, Compton, and Lennox. There is also a special Problems Team comprised of a sergeant and six (6) gang detail deputies who respond to areas with the greatest need for additional enforcement.



Sheriff's Patrol Boat, Port of Long Beach

OSS works closely with the United States Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau (ATF), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to investigate and prosecute gang members federally. Recently, OSS was instrumental in obtaining 102 federal indictments on the Florencia 13 gang for federal racketeering charges and other serious crimes. Gang related violence in the unincorporated areas has seen an encouraging decrease in 2007 from 2006 even with new reporting procedures in place to capture additional gang related crimes at the patrol level.



Sheriff's Helicopter on Patrol

In 2007, the Sheriff's Department implemented a strategy to abate ten (10) gangs at a time under the direction of Assistant Sheriff Paul Tanaka. Station commanders are responsible for reducing the violence attributed to their target gang and they are compelled to utilize all available resources to abate the gang's existence as a nuisance in the community.

Funding

The LASD budget is approved by the County Board of Supervisors through the utilization of state and local tax dollars. These funds are augmented by revenue generating contracts and grant allowances.

The changing fiscal landscape in California, including the passage of tax limitation measures, declining popular support for bond measures, and reductions in state and federal assistance has hampered the capability of local governments to fund a public safety infrastructure. Faced with this ever increasing trend, the LASD has joined with the City of Santa Clarita and the Board of Supervisors to propose the establishment of Law Enforcement Facilities Fees (impact fees) on all new property and commercial developments in northern Los Angeles County. If adopted, revenues realized from the Law Enforcement Facilities Fee program will be utilized to ensure that new development ventures pay the capital costs of expanded or new law enforcement facilities associated with growth.

Future Conditions

It is projected that the population and the number of businesses in Los Angeles County will continue to grow in the coming years. This growth pattern is particularly evident in northern Los Angeles County. Additionally, County jails are becoming more crowded. For example, over the last five (5) years, there has been a 7.4 percent increase in the number of inmates booked into the Los Angeles County jail system. With these factors in mind, the LASD is preparing for the future. A comprehensive plan to meet the needs of the County with regard to jail facilities is being developed. The Custody Division Plan includes two (2) facilities for the rehabilitation of female offenders; a new or newly renovated facility on the site of the Sybil Brand Institute in City Terrace and the construction of a new facility on the grounds of the Pitchess Detention Center compound. Also being investigated is the possibility of expansion at Mira Loma Detention Center and the renovations of Men's Central Jail and the Inmate Reception Center.

The possibility of constructing or expanding sheriff's stations in the Antelope Valley, Newhall, Gorman, East Los Angeles, and Santa Clarita areas is being investigated. The LASD continues in its commitment to develop the needed infrastructure to professionally and efficiently provide a "Tradition of Service" to the men and women of the County of Los Angeles in the coming decades.

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Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-8

A County with reliable and satisfactory law enforcement protection services and facilities.

- **Policy PS 8.1:** Promote phased development, whereby land use proposals are developed in conjunction with approved law enforcement capabilities.
- **Policy PS 8.2:** Support the expansion of law enforcement facilities and programs, where needed, to reduce the level of crime in the County.
- **Policy PS 8.3:** Encourage ongoing evaluation of law enforcement funding sources.

Implementation Action PS 8.1

Collaborate with law enforcement officials, non-profits and community stakeholders to increase anti-gang initiatives and other community building efforts.

VIII. EDUCATION

Los Angeles County is home to one of the largest public school systems in the nation. While the County does not operate any of these school districts, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (COE), the nation's largest regional education agency, serves as an intermediary between the local school districts and the California Department of Education. The COE, operated by the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, is guided by the County Board of Education, a seven (7) member board that is appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

Background

As of 2005, the County encompasses 81 school districts that serve nearly 1.7 million students at more than 1,700 school sites. In addition to the K-12 school districts, the County also con-

tains 13 community college districts. For a list of these districts and their respective schools, please visit the COE website at www.lacoe.edu.

Los Angeles County Office of Education (COE)

The COE provides programs and services for teachers, administrators, parents, and schools. These include business and financial services to districts, teacher and leadership training, school reform policy, and community partnership development. The COE also consults with school districts regarding curriculum, instruction, assessment of programs, employment services, and school-to-career training.

In addition to the many programs provided on a regional basis, the COE runs the County's Head Start Preschool program, which is the largest in the nation, the juvenile court and community schools, and two (2) independent schools; the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and the Los Angeles County Polytechnic High School.

Higher Education

Some of the State's most prestigious higher education institutions are located within Los Angeles County. These include private schools such as the University of Southern California (USC), specialty schools like the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SciArc) and the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), and major public institutions



Safe Routes to School

“The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living from the dead

—Aristotle

like the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). A list of the higher education opportunities within the County can be found at www.californiacolleges.edu.

County School Impact Assessments

As a primary unit of neighborhood life, local schools are a vital component in the County’s development. Currently, through the County subdivision approval process, developers are required to assess the need for and provide land for the construction of schools within their development where appropriate. Development impact fees, based on the size of a development, are distributed to the appropriate school district for the construction of school facilities before the County issues any building permits. Additionally, the CEQA process requires the analysis of development impacts on educational facilities and services. The County utilizes CEQA analysis on all discretionary development that has an impact on the environment and community services such as education.

Future Conditions

There is no countywide plan for the development of education facilities. However, the Los Angeles Unified School District is currently underway with the largest school building campaign in its history. The assessment of facility needs and the construction of schools fall to individual school districts throughout the County. The COE does provide a vision statement and strategic opportunities for educational facility development.

The County’s role in developing and managing educational facilities and programs is limited. However, the General Plan promotes the adequate provision of educational services to meet the needs of the County’s population and economic sectors.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-9

A thriving and well-funded network of school districts and education providers throughout the County.

- **Policy PS 9.1:** Ensure a desired level of educational facilities through land use and facility planning.
- **Policy PS 9.2:** Encourage the shared use of sites for development of schools, parks, libraries, housing, and other compatible uses.
- **Policy PS 9.3:** Promote extensive adult education and workforce training centers around the County.
- **Policy PS 9.3:** Site new school facilities away from major pollution sources, such as freeways.

Implementation Action PS 9.1

Work with County Counsel to explore contractual language to be used in joint-use agreements with school districts for the shared use of facilities, playgrounds, and other resources.

IX. LIBRARIES

The County of Los Angeles Public Library provides the residents of the County’s diverse communities with easy access to the information and knowledge needed to nurture cultural exploration and lifelong learning. The County Public Library was established in 1912 under authority of the County Free Library Act. Today it is one of the largest public libraries in the nation and provides library services to over 3.6 million residents living in unincorporated areas, and to residents of 51 of the 88 incorporated cities of the County. The Library system is a special fund department operating under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors.

Operations and Programs

The County Public Library is a dynamic network of community libraries that are vibrant centers of knowledge, culture, and recreation. County libraries benefit from a shared collection of books, databases, and other library materials, centrally designed service programs, and the cost-effectiveness of centralized purchasing, processing,

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LA County Students

and delivery. Library services are provided at 86 community libraries, four (4) bookmobiles, and a variety of special reference and resource centers.

The Library offers a diverse array of programs and services for children, students, teens, adults, seniors, and families to support reading and learning, and to promote multicultural understanding and appreciation. The Library provides a strong early childhood pre-literacy program, and special parent education programs have been developed with Head Start, the County Department of Health Services (DHS), and various educational and health-related non-profit agencies. Family Place Centers in 19 County libraries offer valuable services to families, such as emergent literacy, reading readiness, parent education services, and age-appropriate programming for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their parents and caregivers. Homework Centers in 40 libraries provide after-school homework assistance on a one-on-one basis, live interactive online homework help, and access to educational resources and computers to support elementary and middle school students.

Four (4) ethnic resource centers provide specialized subject collections on the African American, American Indian, Asian Pacific and Chicano communities. The Californiana Collection focuses on the history of California in general, and Southern California in particular, with special emphasis on local history materials about the cities and communities served by the Library. Literary Centers throughout the County Public Library's service area offer a variety of literacy services, including tutoring, instruction in English as a second language, and family literacy.

In Fiscal Year 2005-2006, Library staff circulated over 13.4 million items to 2.65 million cardholders, answered over 9.9 million reference questions, provided 16,000 programs to nearly 600,000 children, teens, and adults, and assisted the public with over 3.6 million Internet sessions on the Library's public access computers. Supplementing the 6.9 million volume book collection, the Library also offers magazines, newspapers, microfilm, government publications, specialized reference materials, cassettes, compact discs, videocassettes, and internet access. In 2007, all County libraries began providing wireless Internet access, and in 2008, the Library will implement a new integrated library system, increasing access to electronic information for library customers as well as remote users.



Bob Luca Memorial Library

Table 9.3: L.A. County Public Library Mitigation Fees, as of 2007

Planning Area	Fee (per dwelling unit)
Planning Area 1: Santa Clarita Valley	\$765.00
Planning Area 2: Antelope Valley	\$743.00
Planning Area 3: West San Gabriel Valley	\$775.00
Planning Area 4: East San Gabriel Valley	\$763.00
Planning Area 5: Southeast	\$766.00
Planning Area 6: Southwest	\$772.00
Planning Area 7: Santa Monica Mountains per dwelling unit	\$768.00

The direction of the Library system as it moves forward in the 21st Century is guided by a Strategic Plan, which can be viewed online at www.colapublib.org/about/StrategicPlanBrochureRev.pdf.

Library Facilities Mitigation Fees

The County applies a library facilities mitigation fee to new residential development projects in unincorporated areas served by the County Public Library. This fee is intended to mitigate the significant adverse impacts of increased residential development on County public library facilities and services. The amount of the mitigation fee to be imposed on a residential development project is based on the findings and conclusions of the County Librarian in the “Report on Proposed Developer Fee Program for Library Facilities—Prepared by the County of Los Angeles Public Library, October 1998”. The mitigation fee program is codified in the Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 22.72.

The library facilities mitigation fee is uniform within each of the County’s seven (7) library planning areas and is based on the estimated cost of providing the projected library facility needs in each library planning area. **Table 9.3** shows these fees as of July 1, 2007.

The amount of the fee in each of the seven (7) planning areas is reviewed annually by the County Librarian, in consultation with the County Auditor-Controller, and is adjusted every July 1. No adjustment shall increase or

decrease the fee to an amount more or less than the amount necessary to recover the cost of providing applicable library facilities and services.

The provisions of the Library Facilities Mitigation fee ordinance are applicable to residential projects only. No tract map, parcel map, conditional use permit, other land use permit or other entitlement will be approved unless payment of the library facilities mitigation fee is made a condition

of approval for any such entitlement. All library facilities mitigation fees received by the County are deposited in a special library capital facilities fund (one for each library planning area) and expended solely for the purposes for which the fee was collected.

Library Facility Needs

The majority of the County’s 84 existing libraries are under-sized and under-stocked to meet the service needs of both current and projected populations served by these libraries. A study conducted by the Library in April 2001 determined that many of the County’s existing libraries do not meet basic facility and service planning guidelines. The current guideline for library facility space is a minimum of 0.5 gross square foot per capita. The 2001 study determined that 89% of existing libraries will not meet that standard in the year



Los Angeles County Library Staff

2020, using population projections provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). In addition, by 2020, 77% of existing libraries will not meet the County Library's current service level planning guideline of 2.75 items (books and other library materials) per capita based on SCAG population projections.

While there is a clear need for the upgrading of existing Library facilities, many libraries are in areas that are not subject to the mitigation fee or are in areas with little or no new residential development. Therefore, there are no mitigation fees or other reliable sources of capital funding available to replace or expand existing libraries. Funding for an ongoing program to replace or expand existing facilities is needed to meet the projected population growth in the County Library's service area over the next two (2) decades.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

Goal PS-10

A County with a comprehensive public library system.

- **Policy PS 10.1:** Ensure a desired level of library service through coordinated land use and facility planning.
- **Policy PS 10.2:** Support phased development and mitigation fees for library facilities and services.

Implementation Action PS 10.1

Explore having the County library online system have a link to County plans.

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